

House Resolution No. 791

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high regard those Show-Me State residents who have proudly answered the patriotic call to national service through their enlistment in the United States military during times of worldwide turmoil; and

Whereas, John Tilzman of Saint Louis attained considerable distinction as an original Montford Pointer in the United States Marine Corps during World War II; and

Whereas, when pushed toward racial integration by President Roosevelt after his reelection in 1940, the United States Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps took steps to incorporate young men of color into the ranks under the leadership of Secretary Knox; and

Whereas, John Tilzman became one of nine hundred African American men to enter the Marines Corps through the boot camp at Montford Point and proudly took on the honorary title of a Montford Pointer; and

Whereas, although complete integration of the armed forces was still several years away, the 900-man defense battalion made up of Montford Pointers in the Marine Corps proved that President Roosevelt's vision was accurate and keen; and

Whereas, Montford Pointers successfully led the way as soldiers and specialists to demonstrate that African Americans have the capabilities, love of country, and appreciation of democracy and equality that it takes to serve as commissioned officers, noncommissioned officers, and other ranks in all branches of the military; and

Whereas, John Tilzman will be given well-deserved honors and accolades during Black History Month on Saturday, February 26, 2005, by the Metro Missouri Chapter of the Montford Point Marines Association in light of his exemplary service as an avant-garde member of the integrated military:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-third General Assembly, join unanimously to salute John Tilzman, to convey this legislative body's commendation of his activities as a Montford Pointer in the United States Marine Corps, and to express this legislative body's sincerest appreciation of his unparalleled efforts during the early years of racial integration by the military; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of John Tilzman of Saint Louis, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Amber (Holly) Boykins
District No. 60

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Ninety-third General Assembly, First Regular Session, do
certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 791, adopted February 25, 2005.

Rod Jetton, Speaker